The prisoner could probably have been killed and Elie and his father would have been sent to the crematory if they hadn’t obeyed the prisoner because of that seemingly pointless conversation. In *The Alchemist*, Santiago is assisted by an old king, Melchizedek. The king teaches the boy to read signs, or omens. To help Santiago, the king gives him two stones, “‘They are called Urim and Thummim. The black signifies ‘yes,’ and the white ‘no.’ When you are unable to read the omens, they will help you to do so’” (Coelho 31). Santiago uses these stones throughout his journey to the pyramids, the goal of his Personal Legend. Those two stones cause Santiago to keep moving forward in his Personal Legend. When he is at the crystal merchant’s shop, he thinks of just remaining there, of never finishing his journey. Then he sees Urim and Thummim and realizes he cannot do that, he must accomplish his Personal Legend. They remind him of why he even started his Personal Legend in the first place, to follow his dream, of the children playing with his sheep, that the woman who interpreted dreams had deciphered it, to go to the Pyramids in Egypt. The old kings’ stones had made the boy realize why he was on his Personal Legend and to keep going. As the prisoner helps Elie Wiesel and his father in *Night*, Melchizedek helps Santiago read the omens to finish his Personal Legend in *The Alchemist.* Without these vital contributions from other characters, Elie and Santiago may never have accomplished what they did, whether reaching the Pyramids or staying alive.

Although helping is considered lending a hand to someone allowing them to progress or benefit somehow, helping can also be when you rejuvenate the hope a person has of accomplishing a feat. In the novel *The Alchemist,* there are numerous times when Santiago wishes to “give up” on his Personal Legend, to simply return to his sheep, as he is a shepherd. The Alchemist assists Santiago on his journey by helping him persevere. One day, as the boy was thinking of Fatima, the woman he fell in love with, the Alchemist attempts to break him out of his reverie. “‘When a person really desires something, all the universe conspires to help that person to realize his dream,’ said the alchemist, echoing the words of the old king”(Coelho 119). This quote portrays everything that Santiago has worked for and this helps him continue on his journey. The Alchemist is saying that when someone is trying to achieve something, the entire world will change to allow that feat to be accomplished. When a person is on his Personal Legend, nothing can stop him from achieving his goal. Santiago takes that to mean that someone else was there to assist him finish his Personal Legend. The Alchemist’s words let the boy persevere to the Pyramids in Egypt. By doing so, the Alchemist is indirectly helping Santiago complete his task. In *Night*, Elie Wiesel wants to stop trying and just die, to simply allow himself a rest, or more accurately an eternal rest. However, his father keeps him from dying. After their march to Buchenwald, Elie is overcome with sleep. He is too tired to even move, “We sank down as one man in the snow. My father shook me. ‘Not here….Get up….A little farther on. There’s a shed over there…come on’… ‘Don’t let yourself be overcome by sleep, Eliezer. It’s dangerous to fall asleep in the snow. You might sleep for good. Come on, come on. Get up’”(Wiesel 83-84). Chlomo Wiesel will not allow his exhausted son to give in to death. Elie in turn keeps his father awake, too, for sleeping in those conditions would be certain suicide, which was not such a foreign idea for the prisoners at the concentration camps. Elie and Chlomo are kept alive by each other’s simple words that encouraged perseverance. They both had one reason to stay alive, the other person. Their continuous words of perseverance were the only reason they stayed alive so long. In both *The Alchemist* and *Night*, there are numerous cases of others helping the main characters, Santiago and Elie, persevere, Elie with his father and Santiago with the Alchemist. Both books exhibit tremendous suffering, whether emotionally or physically. During these times when the Elie and Santiago were tormented, the assistance of others was the reason they were able to continue on their journey.

It takes courage to help people. However without the help of several important characters, Elie and Santiago would not have succeeded through their hardships. Elie was helped by his father and was given advice from many other prisoners. For instance, the prisoner who told Elie and his father to lie about their age risked his life to save theirs. Also, Santiago was helped by the Alchemist and the old king, Melchizedek. Not only were these characters helped by others, but they also help others. For example, Santiago helped the crystal merchant and Elie tended to his father. To Santiago and Elie, the characters that tended to them were vital to the success of their journeys. No one successful can achieve their position in life without the assistance of others. This all comes to show that it never hurts to lend a hand. Not only will others be thankful of your caring love, but one day it may come round and help you out.